

## **GSU Local 60018**

### **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

November 21, 2018

#### **Call to Order by the Chairperson**

The Annual General Meeting of the GSU Local 60018 was called to order at 15:14 on November 21, 2018 in Shediac by President Matthew Fields.

#### **Roll Call of Officers**

Brother Matthew Fields- President

Sister Chantal Clark - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- President

Sister Jennifer LeBlanc- Secretary

Brother Robert Barclay – Treasurer

#### **Invited Guests**

Brother Randy Howard – GSU National President

Sister Colleen Coffee – PSAC REVP

Sister Shanny Doucet – GSU Regional Vice President

Monique Laplante – PSAC Representative

#### **Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting**

Brother Fields welcomed the membership and advised the meeting would in bilingual format and members could feel free to ask questions in the language of their choice.

#### **Agenda**

Brother Fields put forth a motion to approve the posted agenda. Motion to accept the agenda by Susan Smith and Lisa Leger. All in favour. Motion carried.

## **President's Report**

Brother Fields presented the President's report – attached. Brother Fields put forth a motion to accept the President's report. David Hussell and Lisa Leger approved. All in favour. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Brother Barclay presented the audited Treasurer's report.

Question from the floor – “What is the pay as you go account?” Brother Barclay – “That is the everyday chequing account”

Question from the floor – “Is this the balance?” Brother Barclay – “These are the funds the local received in 2017”

Question from the floor – Why is the local amount so low? Is this because of Phoenix?” Sister Doucet – “The local only receives \$1.66 of the monthly dues paid per member.”

Question from the floor – “Are we voting about the strike fund? How do we stop it?” Brother Fields – “The strike fund was voted in and to stop it the membership would need to vote it out.”

Comment from the floor – “Next AGM can you bring the figures up to date – November 1<sup>st</sup>.” Brother Fields – “Noted we can bring them next AGM.”

Motion to approve the 2019 Budget as presented – Lisa Leger and Susan Smith approves. All in favour. Motion passed.

## **Strike Fund**

Brother Fields – “It was requested that a discussion be had regarding the strike fund – did someone want to speak on this?”

Question from the floor – “We were told we could vote on it if it was added to the agenda?” Brother Howard – “There has not been a motion posted – we cannot entertain a motion from the floor, it needs to be written and posted for 30 days. This has not been done, therefore we are unable to entertain a motion or vote at this meeting. We can discuss the strike fund and once a motion is written and posted, you can vote at a later date.”

Question from the floor – “We have \$71,000.00 – that's a lot of money, we didn't strike last time and even when we do it's never for a month it's usually for 1-2 weeks. I am an adult – I know what my finances are and I don't need people putting money aside for me. I'm frustrated that it can't be a motion at this meeting- I feel like we were misled.”

Sister Coffee – “The \$71,000.00 your membership has saved – that works out to \$83.00 a person- you have 800 members, that \$71,000.00 will go fast.”

Comment from the floor – “There’s no way we have 800 members” Brother Howard – “There are 800 registered members in this local”

Question from the floor – “How many of those are designated essential and unable to strike?” Brother Fields – “At this time we do not have a designated essential list.”

Sister Coffee – “There seems to be a lot of strong opinions about this and that’s great. I suggest we move this AGM along and the local can schedule a special meeting to discuss and vote on the strike fund once a motion has been prepared and posted.”

Sister Leger – “I was the President at last AGM and it was my understanding that as we could not discuss at the last AGM we would be able to discuss and vote at this AGM. There was no lying or miss-leading intended.”

Question from the floor – “Anything else missing or need to be done before the next meeting so we don’t have this issue again?” Brother Howard – “We will guide the local – someone needs to prepare a motion – it will be given to the local for review and then be posted? Sister Doucet – “The motion needs to be written specifically to either continue or stop the fund. You need a 2/3 majority vote for the motion to pass. Whoever writes the motion – Matthew and I will review and advise of any changes that are needed. Then it has to be posted for a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.”

Question from the floor – “Where do we get the guidelines for writing a motion?” Sister Doucet – “They are posted on the PSAC website – again we will review and help you make adjustments.”

Brother Howard – “A meeting will be scheduled 30 days from when the motion is posted.”

Question from the floor – “How long to stop the deductions” Sister Coffee – “It generally takes a minimum of 3 months to get the deductions stopped.”

## **Elections**

Brother Howard – “Moving on to the elections- all of the positions are open today. I will read the electronic nominations and then make 3 calls to the floor for nominations.

The first position is President. Email nomination from Cheryl LeBlanc – nominating Matthew Fields. Debbie Lewis seconds Cheryl’s nomination for Matthew Fields. Call to the floor for nominations #1. Call to the floor for nominations #2. Call to the floor #3. Seeing no nominations

from the floor – Brother Fields do you accept the nomination? Accepted. Congratulations Brother Fields.

Next up is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, we have an email nomination from Sophie Leger nominating Chantal Clark. Paryse Oullette seconds the nomination of Chantal Clark. Call to the floor for nominations #1. Call to the floor for nominations #2. Call to the floor for nominations #3. Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations are now closed. Chantal do you accepted the nomination. Accepted. Congratulations Sister Clark.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, we have an email nomination from Isabelle Surette nominating Mike LeBlanc. Sophie Leger seconds the nomination. Call to the floor #1. Call to the floor #2. Call to the floor #3. Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations are now closed. Brother LeBlanc do you accept? Accepted. Congratulations.

Treasurer, we have an email nomination from Kelly Velazquez nominating Robert Barclay. Chelsea Belliveau seconds the nomination. Call to the floor for nominations #1. Call to the floor for nominations #2. Call to the floor for nominations #3. Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations are now closed. Brother Barclay do you accept? Accepted. Congratulations Brother Barclay.

Secretary, we have an email nomination from Kelly Velazquez nominating Jennifer LeBlanc. Susan Smith seconds the nomination. Call to the floor for nominations #1. Call to the floor for nominations #2. Call to the floor for nominations #3. Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations are now closed. Sister LeBlanc do you accept. Accepted. Congratulations Sister LeBlanc.

At the end of the meeting, please stay to be sworn in.

### **Call of interest for shop stewards**

Brother Fields – “Just a note of call for interest for shop stewards. Always looking for volunteers- if you want to get involved get in touch with any member of the executive.”

### **Invited Guests**

Sister Doucet – “There is a photo contest to support the bargaining team. The prize is \$200 to the local to donate to the charity of their choice. The local has chosen the Shediak Women’s Crisis Centre.” All members in attendance took a picture holding up their bargaining signs.

Brother Howard – I was elected September 2017 as National President of the GSU. Our bargaining team is working hard- Colleen and Monique will have further information. Implementation of the pay pods at the Pay Centre – each department will have a pay pod with HR and Pay working together – files will be worked cover to cover rather than on an individual

transactions basis. The Union is requesting that pension experts get the same retention allowance as compensation advisors receive. Discussions with Chris Aylward to stress the importance of this as pension experts are handling so many compensation questions now. PSAC is pushing for compensation for every Public Servant as a result of the impacts of Phoenix.

Question from the floor – Can we get clarification of call centre vs contact centre. Brother Howard – “Call centers take back to back calls with no breaks in between calls. Pension Centre workers get not ready time after calls which breaks up the calls so they’re not back to back.”

Question from the floor – “Who in the Government is considered a call centre?” – Brother Howard – “CRA and Service Canada are considered call centers.”

Brother Fields thanks Brother Howard and invites Sister Doucet to speak to the membership.

Sister Doucet made a statement explaining that she participates on various committees within PSAC and GSU as well as within Moncton, New Brunswick Federation of Labour, Pay Equity Working Group, Women’s Committee. If you are interested in joining a committee please contact the union for more information.

Brother Fields thanks Sister Doucet and welcomes Sister Coffee to make a statement.

Sister Coffee made a statement about the importance of supporting the Union and the events coming up- conventions, etc. The importance of recognizing our volunteers and the important work they do. The time they donate to support the various causes. She was elected REVP in June 2017 at the convention in Saint John. The photo taken for the bargaining team will be sent to Ottawa – they have a board behind their side of the bargaining meetings showing all the photos of members supporting them. Next week they will be meeting with the Treasury Boards Bargaining team again. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting – so far they have not come to the table prepared to bargain – not coming with the authorization to make offers. After next week if they still come with nothing then the Union is going to declare an impasse. The Treasury Board Minister Scott Brison was already put on notice we will go to the Public Interest Commission and request a report. PSAC launched the “Here for Canada” campaign – putting it out to the public that our members are still showing up to serve Canada regardless of whether they are getting paid. The Union has held focus groups and met with the public and they were not aware of how serious the impacts of Phoenix are. The general consensus is they support public servants and agree they are being treated unfairly. If you want to take individual bargaining support pictures, you can send them to Sebastien – Matthew has to email address. On Tuesday we lobbied for Universal Child Care – go to the PSAC website and send support to show we are serious in our request for regulated child care. Conventions coming up – Shanny has a list of them. PSAC is supporting the Magnetic Hill Zoo Wild Lights. Posters will be put up with information on how members can buy tickets. The event is December 14, 2018 and tickets need

to be purchased by December 12, 2018. On December 6, 2018 there will be violence against women activities planned.

Question from the floor – “What is domestic leave we are requesting for in the bargaining?”

Sister Coffee – “This is a common bargaining demand among all bargaining groups. Asking for 10 days leave for issues relating to domestic violence. This demand came from feedback from our women’s committees.”

Question from the floor – “What are the bargaining dates?” Sister Coffee – “December 4-6 they will be meeting again.”

Question from the floor – “How do we show our support?” Sister Coffee – “You can post signs supporting the bargaining team. Can wear the Respect buttons”

Comment from the floor – “Before the strike fund we had nothing, we were cautious to push back and strike. The fund allows us not to be scared to push back.”

Sister Coffee explained the importance of showing support to union events when the union sends an email requesting people turn out. This shows the Government we are unified and working as a collective.

Questions from the floor – “Is family day in February going to be recognized?” Sister Coffee – “It’s on the table in this current round of bargaining.”

Questions from the floor – “Election in 2019 – will we use this in bargaining push backs?” Sister Coffee – “Yes we are planning on using this upcoming election as part of our bargaining push back.”

Brother Fields thanks Sister Coffee for her hard work and support. He invites the committees to come forward and speak to the membership.

Eric Couture on behalf of the Wellness Committee – Want to express that we really appreciate the Union’s support both monetary and the feedback they provided. The new Wellness Facebook page is a great example of the feedback provided from the union. This year we implemented the sports box – it’s been a huge success – allowing members to find ways to be active. The walking club has also been very successful. The Wellness committee recently presented their business plan to the SEC meeting – we have 24 activities planned.

Odette Babineau on behalf of the Employee Equity and Diversity Committee. The financial statement has been prepared – thank s to the union and the membership for their support. Offering an invitation for new members to join the committee. Most recently we had the Movember event for National Men’s day and has a guest speaker about prostate cancer.

Brother Fields – “Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting?” Lisa Leger motions to adjourn, Susan Smith seconds the motion. All in favour. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer LeBlanc



Approved by: Local 60018 Executive

President: Matthew Fields



